

SECRET

PRODUCTION

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E2-7

S-2434

11 August 1967

North Vietnamese Imports

During the first six months of 1967 the total volume of North Vietnamese imports reached 1,055 thousand metric tons. Seaborne imports accounted for 80 percent of the total; rail shipments, 20 percent. Only a negligible volume of North Vietnamese imports moves by road and inland waterways. It is estimated that total imports for 1967 will be 2,050 thousand metric tons, a one-third increase over 1966. Estimates of North Vietnamese imports for recent years are given below, in thousand metric tons:

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>January- June 1967</u>	<u>January- December 1967^a</u>
Total	1,170	1,500	1,055	2,050
Rail	320	420	210	400
Seaborne	850	1,080	845	1,650

a. Projected

North Vietnam's continued sharp rise in imports in the first half of 1967 has been accounted for by seaborne shipments. The rise in seaborne shipments has resulted from an extremely large increase in imports of bulk foodstuffs and significant increases in miscellaneous cargoes and petroleum.

The projected rise in total imports for 1967 is based on the continued support of the North Vietnamese war effort by the other Communist countries. Seaborne shipments are expected

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to increase further because of the continuing need for the additional foodstuffs. It is also expected that imports of miscellaneous cargoes--equipment for transportation, construction, power, communications, and maintenance programs--will continue to rise.

The projected decline in rail shipments for 1967 results from the cessation of coal shipments from China after the bombing of the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Complex. Assuming, as is probable, that this plant does not resume operation this year, the total of 65,000 tons already delivered will be the total of coal imports for the year, a drop of 100,000 tons from 1966. A resumption of operations at Thai Nguyen would require imports of about 15,000 tons of coal per month. The other major categories of rail shipments--military and economic goods--are expected to increase slightly.

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: ① D/O R ② ADDYER ③ EA/EA		
ROOM NO. 4 F18	BUILDING Hq.	④ File: Vietnam
REMARKS:		
<p>Requested by Col. Ginsberg, JCS Liaison Officer, National Security Council.</p> <p>Transmitted via LDX to the White House on 11 Aug 67.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STAT</p>		
FROM: HCS - oeh/D/T		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION
<p>FORM NO. 241 1 FEB 55</p> <p>REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(47)</p>		